Telephone Calls between Bombay and New Bombay

1492. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from residents of New Bombay that calls between Bombay and New Bombay should be treated as local calls rather than STD calls;

(b) whether such representations have also been received from residents of Bhayander (Bombay);

(c) whether Government are considering these representations;

(d) whether New Bombay would be attached to MTNL Bombay to facilitate the above; and

(e) by when Government are likely to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The representations have been considered. The Telephone system serving the area of New Bombay Corporation is separate from the telephone system serving the Bombay Municipal Corporation and Thane Municipal Corporation areas. It has, therefor not been found possible to treat calls between these two telephone systems as local calls.

Losses to BPC Limited at their Butcher Island Tankage Project

1493. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have lost over Rs. 2 crore in their Butcher Island Tankage project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against those found responsible for these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Debureaucratising of Public Sector

1494. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report which appeared in "The Times of India", New Delhi dated 13th April, 1989 regarding suggestions made about "Debureaucratising of Public Sector";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what action plan is contemplated by Govt. to debureaucratise the Public Sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is keen to enhance the autonomy of central public sector enterprises consistent with their accountability. Government has accepted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as an instrument to improve its relationship with the public enterprises and effectively reduce bureaucratic interface in their day-to-day operations. To begin with, Government had signed MOU with 11 selected important public enterprises for the year 1988-89. The number will go up to 18 for the year 1989-90. Meanwhile

the MOU signing public sector enterprises have been delegated greater financial and administrative powers in areas like capital expenditure, wage settlements, incentive schemes, voluntary retirement schemes, transfer of Functional Directors etc.

Manufacture of polyester-based medical and industrial X-ray and graphic films

1495. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Director, General (Technical Development) to evaluate the claims of Garware Plastics and Polyester Limited to manufacture polyester-based medical and industrial X-ray and graphic films;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee set up by Government had not made any elaborate study and their members had no knowledge of the subjects, and if so, whether Government propose to appoint another Committee having knowledgeable people, and if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Proposals for setting up Industrial Units are got examined in the Government, as an internal exercise, by Committees such as Technical Evaluation Committee and officials who are experts in the line.

Government has, at present, no proposal to appoint any Committee.

Representation of Kerala in Coir Board

1496. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala is not proportionally represented in the Coir Board; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to give full representation to the State on the Coir board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Coir Board has been constituted as per the provisoins of Coir Industry Act, 1953 and Coir Industry Rules, 1954. Representation on the Board has been given to the categories specified in the said Act and Rules which do not provide for any State-wise representation. Apart from the Chairman, there are 23 Members on the Board, of whom 3 are elected by the Parliament, 5 represent various State Governments including Kerala and 3 represent Central Government Departments/organisations. Of the remaining 12, as many as 5 are from Kerala whereas 5 States together have got only 7 Members.

Natural Gas from Krishna-Godavari Basin for Power Generation in Andhra Pradesh

1497. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many million cubic metres of natural gas is produced in the Krishna-Godavari basin per day;